

Image postprocessing tutorial packages by Jack and Sue Drafahl

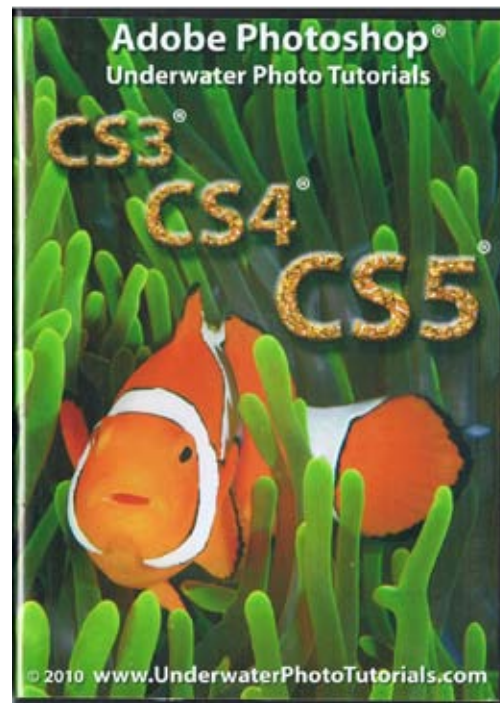
Reviewed by Alex Tattersall

As someone with a stubborn willingness to work within the confines of what I find comfortable and familiar, I was happy to be asked to review these two software packages to expand my own understanding of the possibilities for post-processing my own images.

Jack and Sue Drafahl have, at least since I became involved in underwater photography, long occupied the spot as chief gurus of post processing. It is inevitable then that they have continued their work into providing electronic tutorial support and advice both in the form of an online programme (available at www.underwaterphototutorials.com) and a series of three DVDs. The three DVDs currently available are tutorials for Lightroom 3 (US\$75), Photoshop CS3, CS4 and CS5 (US\$100), and Photoshop Elements 6,7,8,9 (\$100). All are available to purchase from the website which considering they contain some 12-16 hours of tutorials each, to me represents very good value for money. As I don't use Photoshop Elements, I took Peter R up on the opportunity to briefly review the other two DVDs.

Both tutorial DVDs are logically presented into key themes which are further broken down into bite-size clips (between 5 and 20 minutes) each identifying and clarifying one feature of the software packages. The clips are based around a hands-on screen capture demonstration with continuous instructive talk through. The impressively extensive collection of tutorials guides the viewer from the most basic of introductions, through file management and workflow, into the more advanced of features, such as 3D models and animation. Example photos edited throughout the tutorials are mostly fairly unspectacular underwater shots selected frequently due to the lighting/exposure/etc. problems they present. The tutorials successfully demonstrates how post processing software can be used to correct issues that previously would have resulted in the photo being sent straight to my the trash bin

I'd suggest that the DVDs are best viewed methodically from one tutorial to the next as later presentations contain implied knowledge from those previous. Trying to dip in and out of each theme



therefore may become problematic for this reason. This means that the ideal approach to these software packages is to put aside an hour a day to follow the course through. With an excitable small child and a busy small business, finding this time for me though seems to be becoming increasingly difficult, but I believe it to be well worth the investment.

Overall then, as a relative beginner in the world of post-processing software, I have been very impressed by these products and can only wonder at the amount of time and energy the Drafaahls have invested in their development. More



information can be seen at www.underwaterphototutorial.com

Alex Tattersall
www.uwvisions.com

www.underwaterphototutorials.com

UwP is looking for someone to review the 3rd DVD "Adobe Photoshop Elements 6-9. If you use this software and would like a copy in return for a review please e mail UwP

peter@uwpmag.com